

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (canceled)
2. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating is irregular in respect of its thickness.
3. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 2 wherein the coating is completely missing at at least one location on the surface of the stent.
4. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 3 wherein the coating is interrupted in a grid-like pattern.
5. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating is provided in the form of coating islands on the surface of the stent.
6. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands are of a substantially round configuration.
7. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
8. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.
9. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.
10. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 9 wherein the mutual spacings of the coating islands are substantially the same everywhere.

11. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.
12. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of: amorphous silicon carbide, hydrogenated amorphous silicon carbide and gold.
13. (new) A stent having a surface with a coating, characterised in that the coating is formed irregularly on the surface.
14. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
15. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.
16. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.